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Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
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Item 3 of the provisional agenda*
Follow-up to the recommendations of the Permanent Forum

Compilation of information from national human rights institutions

Note by the Secretariat

Summary

The present report is a compilation of the responses from national human rights institutions to a questionnaire prepared by the secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, in consultation with the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, on actions taken or planned in relation to indigenous peoples, in order to identify and share good practices. The questionnaire and the complete responses from the institutions are available on the website of the Permanent Forum (www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples).

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I. Introduction

1. This is the first time that the Permanent Forum has requested information on the work of national human rights institutions.[1] The Permanent Forum is keen to engage national human rights institutions in its work and invites them to participate in its sessions. It acknowledges and thanks those institutions that have provided reports and urges them to continue to provide information on their activities relating to indigenous peoples.

2. The secretariat of the Permanent Forum received written responses to the questionnaire addressed to national human rights institutions on actions taken or planned in relation to indigenous peoples. Replies to the questionnaire were received from institutions in Argentina, Burundi, Colombia, Denmark and the United Republic of Tanzania. Other institutions, such as those in Afghanistan, Austria, Croatia, Greece, Haiti, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, advised that they did not work on indigenous peoples' issues.

3. The questionnaire sent to national human rights institutions contained four questions, on the implementation of a recommendation issued by the Permanent Forum at its fourteenth session, in 2015; the theme of the current session, "Indigenous peoples: conflict, peace and resolution"; the participation of national human rights institutions in the sessions of the Forum; and the activities of national human rights institutions in the implementation of the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.

II. Responses of national human rights institutions

1. In the report on its fourteenth session, in 2015 (E/2015/43-E/C.19/2015/10), the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues made the following recommendation: Consistent with article 10 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Permanent Forum calls upon Member States and human rights institutions to consider examining, in conjunction with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples and other mandate holders, the forced relocation of indigenous communities. Please provide any information on how your human rights institution is examining or working on issues related to the forced relocation of indigenous peoples.

4. The national human rights institution of Argentina has not received any complaints of forced relocation of indigenous peoples. However, it has received complaints related to judicial evictions as they refer to judicial orders, which is outside its competence. In such cases the institution accompanies indigenous peoples in their requests for juridical services to suspend the evictions. The institution also works on issues surrounding some of the rights that are affected in the context of an eviction, such as the right to health, education, housing and food. The institution is also participating in a dialogue mechanism with other national and provincial institutions, as well as with civil society organizations, regarding claims

[1] The questionnaire was addressed to 70 national human rights institutions. For more details on national human rights institutions, see the website of the International Coordinating Committee on National Human Rights Institutions (http://nhri.ohchr.org/EN/Pages/default.aspx).

of the Ava Guarani indigenous peoples evicted from their territory some 20 years ago.

5. The national human rights institution of Burundi states that, after an interview with the Burundi association Unite for the Promotion of the Batwa, it became apparent that the Batwa peoples were unjustly accused of offences of rape and theft, among others, with the sole purpose of evicting them from their lands, which they acquired following the abolition of the serfdom system by Decree Law No. 1/19 of 30 June 1977. In addition, some of the Batwa peoples had to sell their lands to creditors at low prices in order to pay their debts, which exacerbated their marginalization and poverty. According to the association, the Batwa peoples are discriminated against regarding compensation for their lands that have been expropriated for public service. The national human rights institution has not conducted investigations into these allegations. However, there are reports by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the non-governmental organization Agency for Cooperation and Research in Development documenting this. The institution is considering granting legal assistance to members of the Batwa peoples, given the marginalization that the group has suffered historically.

6. The national human rights institution of Colombia, through the office in charge of displaced people and the office on indigenous peoples and minorities, follows up resolutions 004 and 005 of 2009 of the Constitutional Court of Colombia, by which the Court ordered special protection for ethnic groups and, in particular, indigenous peoples forced to leave their collective territories. In such cases, the institution accompanies indigenous peoples in the field and requests authorities to adopt measures necessary to guarantee their fundamental territorial rights. Law No. 4633 of 2011 is the main instrument for attention and collective compensation measures for indigenous peoples in the framework of transitional justice. In such matters, the national human rights institution of Colombia has followed up cases of restitution of lands in Alto Andagueda, where the Embera Chami indigenous community is located in the Department of Choco, in order to avoid territorial disputes.

7. The Danish Institute for Human Rights, which is the national human rights institution of Denmark and Greenland, has not examined issues on forced relocation of indigenous peoples in Greenland. However, it made reference to a case decided by the Danish Supreme Court in 2003, initiated by the Greenlandic Thule tribe, as well as to a 2006 ruling of the European Court of Human Rights related to the expropriation and forced relocation of that tribe.

8. The national human rights institution of the United Republic of Tanzania works on issues related to forced relocation of indigenous peoples by conducting public investigations on forceful evictions of the pastoralists' communities and makes recommendations to the authorities. It also investigates complaints of human rights violations and issues related to the contravention of administrative justice affecting indigenous communities. It also monitors the observance of human rights standards and principles of good governance during eviction processes and advises the Government on obtaining the free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples when relocation takes place.

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2. The theme of the fifteenth session of the Permanent Forum, in 2016, is "Indigenous peoples: conflict, peace and resolution". Please provide information on how your human rights institution is working on issues related to conflict, peace and resolution for indigenous peoples. Where possible, please include information on the situation of indigenous women in your responses.

9. The national human rights institution of Argentina is working actively on issues related to participation, consultation and free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples, which are seen as constituting the basic framework to avoid conflict. In order to work on these issues, a working group has been established with civil society organizations and other public mechanisms, including indigenous peoples' organizations.

10. The national human rights institution of Argentina has received many complaints about the lack of compliance with the right of consultation and free, prior and informed consent in many provinces. The complaints relate to the authorization of development projects for the exploitation of hydrocarbons and other natural resources. The institution makes reference to a successful consultation process with indigenous peoples in a project related to optic fibre in Humahuaca, where three indigenous communities participated with national institutions, regional mechanisms and private enterprises. Judicial proceedings were thus avoided. The national human rights institution of Argentina has also intervened in cases against indigenous peoples related to the criminalization of social protest.

11. According to the national human rights institution of Burundi, the Arusha Peace Agreement aims to peacefully resolve the political and ethnic conflict that has continued in Burundi for decades. These conflicts have come about owing to discrimination and other historical grievances. The Agreement prescribes respect for ethnic balance in different institutions, including decision-making institutions. Under article 164 of the Constitution of the Republic of Burundi of 18 March 2005 and article 108 (b) of the Electoral Code, the National Assembly must include at least three Batwa representatives, who should be appointed if not elected; the same applies for the Senate.

12. The Danish Institute for Human Rights has not been directly involved in any work specifically related to conflict, peace and resolution for indigenous peoples. In 2014, Naalakkersuisut, the Government of Greenland, established the Reconciliation Commission. From 2015 to 2017 the Commission is initiating activities to identify cultural and social challenges in society that give rise to tensions as a result of the colonial heritage. The Human Rights Council of Greenland was not invited to participate in or appoint a member of the Commission.

13. Concerning the situation of women, gender discrimination is prohibited by the Greenland Act on Equality of Men and Women. It was through this Act that the Council of Gender Equality was established in Greenland. Its mandate includes examining, on its own initiative or by request, measures relating to gender equality. In cases of discrimination, no national complaints procedure for individuals exists other than taking a case to court or referring the case to the Parliamentary Ombudsman.

14. The role of the national human rights institution of the United Republic of Tanzania in relation to conflict, peace and resolution for indigenous peoples includes awareness-raising on respecting human rights and observance of the

principles of good governance as a means of peace restoration and conflict prevention. This process also includes making indigenous communities aware of the importance of observing and respecting government policies, laws and regulations and of adhering to development programmes. It also includes collaboration with civil society organizations and other key stakeholders in conducting conflict resolution meetings and sessions, for example resolving land disputes between pastoralists and farmers.

3. Has your human rights institution participated in any sessions of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues? If so, what year(s)? Are you considering doing so in the future?

15. The national human rights institution of Argentina has not participated in the sessions of the Forum but is considering doing so in future sessions, especially since it has created a working group for indigenous peoples' rights.

16. The national human rights institution of Burundi has not participated in any session of the Permanent Forum but is interested in participating in the future.

17. The Danish Institute for Human Rights has not participated in any meetings of the Permanent Forum. However, among the members of the Human Rights Council of Greenland is the Inuit Circumpolar Council Greenland, which participates in meetings and events and networks globally on indigenous issues, including the sessions of the Permanent Forum.

18. The national human rights institution of the United Republic of Tanzania has not participated in any sessions of the Permanent Forum but is considering participating in future sessions, subject to the availability of resources or support from development partners.

4. On 22 and 23 September 2014, the United Nations convened the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. In the outcome document (resolution 69/2), the General Assembly welcomed the increasingly important role of national and regional human rights institutions in contributing to the achievement of the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (para. 30). Please provide any information on:

(a) Activities carried out by your human rights institution making use of its mandate and functions under the Paris Principles to promote and protect indigenous peoples' rights as affirmed in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

19. The national human rights institution of Argentina reported the following activities related to the promotion of indigenous peoples' rights:

(a) Seminar on indigenous peoples' rights for indigenous leaders together with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Chaco, Tucuman, Jujuy and Misiones;

(b) Seminars on indigenous peoples' rights for government and judicial officers organized with the Association of Lawyers on Indigenous Law and the National University of Salta;

(c) Establishment of a working group on indigenous peoples' participation, consultation and free, prior and informed consent;

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(d) Publication on the rights of indigenous peoples in Argentina for indigenous peoples and communities, among others.

20. The national human rights institution of Argentina is also following up complaints presented by indigenous peoples. Some of the most recurrent complaints include issues related to access to justice, economic, social and cultural rights, territories, participation and consultation.

21. The national human rights institution of Burundi contributed to the preparation and celebration of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples organized in Bubanza Province in 2015. The representative of the institution has stressed the need to establish mandatory education for Batwa children and the involvement of Batwa families in sending their children to schools. He has also called for affirmative action in favour of Batwa candidates applying for jobs. In 2014 the institution organized a meeting with Unite for the Promotion of the Batwa with a view to promoting the rights of the Batwa peoples. The institution has also recruited Batwa and Mutwa persons as part of its staff.

22. The office on indigenous peoples within the national human rights institution in Colombia provides training to indigenous peoples according to the framework established in the National Constitution, as well as in the law on victims of the armed conflict. About 161 workshops have been organized with the participation of some 10,000 indigenous persons in 15 departments, especially in those with a large presence of indigenous peoples. The office also follows up the adoption of public policies related to indigenous peoples. In the framework of the dialogue mechanism "Mesa permanente de concertación", the office accompanied consultation processes for the formulation of budgetary guidelines incorporated in the national development programme. The office on indigenous peoples has influenced the formulation of differential instruments in the evaluation of risks and threats faced by indigenous leaders and their traditional authorities, in order for the Government to establish protective measures according to the specific population.

23. The Danish Institute for Human Rights works in close collaboration with the Human Rights Council of Greenland in order to promote and protect human rights in Greenland. The Council shares valuable knowledge of the conditions in Greenland with the Institute, and the Institute assists the Council with knowledge-sharing and training on various human rights issues. Whereas the Institute on its own accord has no specific activities under way concerning indigenous peoples' issues, the Council has set up a working group on equal treatment, culture and language. The working group has decided to focus on indigenous issues in 2016, including the right to natural resources.

24. The national human rights institution of the United Republic of Tanzania has carried out the following activities:

(a) Awareness-raising among public and government officials on existence and recognition of indigenous peoples rights through sensitization programmes;

(b) Receiving and investigating allegations and complaints on violation of indigenous peoples' rights;

(c) Conducting enquiries and investigations on violation of human rights and contravention of principles of good governance related to indigenous peoples;

(d) Lobby and advocacy for the adoption and ratification of relevant international human rights instruments on indigenous peoples, such as the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and ILO Convention No. 169.

(b) Specific policies and programmes on indigenous peoples

25. The national human rights institution of Colombia has carried out specific programmes on indigenous peoples from two different perspectives: (a) prevention of the violation of, protection and defence of indigenous peoples' fundamental collective rights established in the Constitution and in ILO Convention No. 169; and (b) protection of indigenous peoples' rights in the framework of laws related to the recognition of their collective rights as victims, seeking damages resulting from the internal armed conflict.

26. The national human rights institution of Burundi has not developed policies and programmes on indigenous peoples. It plans to develop, in partnership with the associations of Batwa peoples and the relevant authorities, a pilot advocacy programme with the Government for the adoption and implementation of specific policies and programmes for the sustainable development of the Batwa peoples. The project will mainstream economic, social and cultural rights.

27. The Danish Institute for Human Rights has issued a strategy for its work concerning Greenland for 2015-2016. The strategy contains four aims:

(a) Close cooperation with the Human Rights Council of Greenland;

(b) Well-structured monitoring and reporting on the human rights situation in Greenland;

(c) Precise and applicable advice for authorities on human rights;

(d) Enhanced information and education for non-governmental parties on human rights.

28. The national human rights institution of the United Republic of Tanzania does not have specific policies and programmes on indigenous peoples, but there are other policies and programmes that consider the rights and affairs of indigenous peoples. The policies include the National Livestock Policy, 2006; Education and Training Policy, 1995; National Health Policy, 1990; National Environmental Policy, 1997; and National Land Policy, 1997. The programmes include: the National Strategy for Growth and Poverty Reduction, the United Nations programme on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD-plus), and the draft Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF III) Indigenous Peoples Policy.

(c) Ad hoc capacity-building programmes on indigenous peoples' rights for staff, or planned capacity-building activities in this area

29. The national human rights institution of Burundi has not adopted a particular programme to develop capacities for its staff related to the rights of indigenous peoples. It plans to do so and takes this opportunity to request support from the Permanent Forum to develop this training.

30. The national human rights institution of Colombia is restructuring its office working on indigenous peoples in order to better comply with its legal mandate, including increasing its personnel, which will allow it to work with indigenous communities and to follow up actions on prevention of the violation of, protection and defence of indigenous peoples' rights.

31. The Danish Institute for Human Rights has no capacity-building programmes or courses for its staff specifically aimed at indigenous peoples' issues.

32. Several capacity-building programmes on indigenous peoples' rights for staff were conducted by the national human rights institution of the United Republic of Tanzania, including:

(a) Training and capacity-building of staff of the Commission on existence, recognition and implementation of indigenous peoples' rights in the United Republic of Tanzania (21-25 July 2015);

(b) Sensitization workshop on existence, recognition and implementation of the rights of indigenous peoples for the institution's staff and other stakeholders (29-30 September 2014);

(c) Sensitization seminar on existence and recognition of indigenous peoples and their rights for members of Parliament and national human rights institution staff (20 June 2015);

(d) Sensitization seminar on existence, recognition and implementation of indigenous peoples' rights for local government authorities officials and some national human rights institution staff (27-28 July 2015);

(e) Advanced short course on indigenous people's rights attended by three officers at the University of Pretoria, South Africa (15-19 September 2014).

(d) Conferences and other meetings organized or supported by your human rights institution on indigenous peoples' issues for 2016 and 2017

33. The national human rights institution of Burundi is currently developing a strategic plan that incorporates promotion, protection and defence of the rights of the Batwa peoples, including panel discussions and sensitization workshops on their living conditions.

34. The national human rights institution of Colombia supported an international seminar on consultation organized in December 2015 by the Ministry of the Interior and ACDI/VOCA. The aim of the seminar was to analyse the consultation process with indigenous peoples in Colombia and review some alternatives to having a legal instrument on this right.

35. The national human rights institution of the United Republic of Tanzania reported the following conferences and meetings on indigenous peoples' issues for 2016 and 2017:

(a) Sensitization seminars on indigenous peoples' rights for officials from government ministries, departments and agencies and representatives of civil society organizations;

(b) Consultative workshops on indigenous peoples' rights for members of Parliament and permanent secretaries of the key ministries;

(c) Stakeholders' meeting to launch and disseminate the report of the national human rights institution/Pastoralists Indigenous Non-Governmental Organizations Forum project on existence, recognition and implementation of indigenous peoples' rights.

36. The Danish Institute for Human Rights is not planning any conferences or meetings with indigenous peoples' issues as the main topic for 2016 and 2017. In preparation for the universal periodic review of Denmark in 2016, a public hearing organized by the Human Rights Council of Greenland and the Danish Institute for Human Rights was held in Nuuk, Greenland, in 2015 with a focus on the rule of law and access to justice.

37. More information is available from the following websites:

Argentina: www.dpn.gob.ar

Burundi: www.cnidh.bi

Colombia: www.defensoria.gov.co

Denmark: www.humanrights.dk

United Republic of Tanzania: www.chragg.go.tz

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Follow-up to the recommendations of the Permanent Forum

Compilation of information received from funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental bodies on progress in the implementation of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum

Note by the Secretariat

Summary

The present report provides a brief compilation of the responses received from funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental bodies to a questionnaire on actions taken to implement the recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. The comprehensive responses are available from the website of the Permanent Forum (https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/unpfii-sessions-2/unpfii-fifteenth-session.html).

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I. Introduction

1. The members of the Permanent Forum have often stated that the implementation of the Forum's recommendations must make a difference in the daily lives of indigenous peoples. A crucial tool in assessing the degree to which the recommendations have been implemented is through the reports submitted by funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental bodies, which provide the main source of information in this regard. The Forum acknowledges and thanks those entities that have provided reports, and urges them to continue providing information on their activities and on the follow-up to the Forum's recommendations.

2. The questionnaire was sent to some 45 funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental bodies. Responses were received from the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

II. Responses received from funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental bodies

A. Provide information on how your agency is working on the issue of conflict, peace and resolution for indigenous peoples in the seven sociocultural regions of the Permanent Forum.[1] Where possible, please include information on the situation of indigenous women in your responses.

3. The secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity stated that although the Convention bodies do not work specifically on the issues of conflict, peace and resolution, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention has adopted several standards and guidelines for Governments that are of relevance to indigenous peoples concerning such matters as environmental impact assessments, codes of conduct and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization.

4. The Department of Public Information continues to work on indigenous peoples' issues through such communication means as multilingual print, television, radio, online and social media platforms. For example, on International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, the United Nations News Centre produced a story highlighting the plight of indigenous women; it also did a story on the visit

[1] The seven sociocultural regions are Africa; Asia; Central and South America and the Caribbean; the Arctic; Central and Eastern Europe, the Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasia; North America; and the Pacific.

of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples to Honduras in November 2015. In addition, the Spanish Unit of United Nations Radio produced a feature on women, indigenous peoples and climate change.

5. OECD stated that it had been conducting work on access to justice for vulnerable groups, including indigenous peoples, and that the issue had been discussed in the second OECD round table on access to justice. Justice services for indigenous peoples are an important issue for several OECD member and key partner countries.

6. FAO is not working directly on conflict, peace and resolution in the seven sociocultural regions. It is, however, engaged in supporting the empowerment of indigenous women. In 2015, FAO and the International Indigenous Women's Forum launched an indigenous women's leadership programme. In 2015, capacity-building programmes were initiated in India and Bolivia (Plurinational State of) and are currently under way in El Salvador, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and the Philippines.

7. Lessons deriving from projects implemented in conflict and post-conflict areas has led IFAD to adopt a three-step strategy when dealing with conflict mitigation and resolution in areas inhabited by indigenous peoples: provision of agricultural inputs to initiate production and establish household food security; restoration of basic services, while promoting a culture of interactive service delivery; and infrastructure rehabilitation and institutional strengthening towards the delivery of development services to improve food security and income. Experience indicates that fostering reconciliation at the community level is best achieved by enabling decentralization processes, supporting grass-roots organizations and providing transparent support to community development activities based on demand. A strong gender focus is also necessary because women can act as effective peace brokers. IFAD has supported projects in Guatemala and India that have contributed to peacebuilding and partnership with local authorities.

8. IOM provides services to pastoralist communities, which make up one of the largest categories of indigenous people in the African region. IOM policy advocacy focuses on promoting migration as an adaptation strategy in respect of climate change. In partnership with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Institute for Security Studies launched the Security in Mobility initiative, which advocates for integrated and comprehensive interventions across three pastoralist clusters, namely, the Turkana-Karamoja, Masaai and Mandera-Somali clusters. The initiative calls for the provision of humanitarian assistance, basic services, facilitated migration and comprehensive security to run concurrently within pastoralist areas.

9. In its efforts to prevent conflicts and promote peace on the ground, OHCHR continues to provide support to Governments in combating poverty and addressing discrimination and inequality. For example, in Colombia, OHCHR has advocated for space for social dialogue on public policy issues of participation, consultation and representation of indigenous communities.

10. UNDP works on the rights of indigenous peoples in relation to conflict, prevention and peacebuilding through a variety of approaches, including support for dialogue among public and private actors and indigenous peoples to prevent and mediate conflicts; the promotion of inclusive processes for social cohesion; the prevention of anti-discrimination through the capacity-building of institutions and

groups; the facilitation of access to justice and redress, including in transitional justice processes; the application of human rights-based approaches; and awareness-raising on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and human rights. For example, in the context of support to victims of the conflict in Colombia, UNDP has supported indigenous peoples. Through the Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility, UNDP has been supporting the Government of Bangladesh in promoting sustainable development and confidence-building in the post-conflict Chittagong Hill Tracts region, as guided by the Peace Accord. In Peru, some 70 per cent of social conflicts are related to extractive industry activities in areas traditionally inhabited by indigenous peoples.

11. UNICEF has been working on issues of conflict, peace and resolution for indigenous peoples in several countries, with particular attention being given to the situation of indigenous women and children. These include Colombia, where, according to a recent report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict (A/69/926-S/2015/409), serious violations continue to affect indigenous peoples, with a heavy impact on indigenous and Afro-descendant children. In 2015, UNICEF offices in Ecuador and Colombia formulated a cross-border child protection programme, following consultations with local actors in both Esmeraldas, Ecuador and Putumayo, Colombia. One of the specific objectives of the programme is to address the trafficking of teenage girls, most of whom are indigenous, from Colombia to Ecuador for sexual exploitation. In Honduras, UNICEF coordinated with the national emergency agency, COPECO, to provide hygiene and recreational kits to 229 indigenous persons, including 141 children and 52 women who had been displaced from Nicaragua to the Mosquitia area of Honduras, allegedly owing to land disputes between indigenous groups and settlers.

12. As a leading agency in the monitoring and reporting mechanism on grave violations of children's rights in situations of armed conflict, UNICEF Philippines actively monitors, verifies and reports violations perpetrated in the context of armed conflict. UNICEF also engages in dialogue and advocates with the armed forces, armed groups and the Government to promote greater accountability and prevent further violations against children. In 2015, UNICEF monitored and verified several grave child rights violations committed by armed forces and armed groups in indigenous communities, such as killings, sexual violence, arbitrary detentions and attacks on schools and their personnel. UNICEF is particularly concerned at the military use of schools administered by non-governmental organizations in remote indigenous communities and the attacks against and threats to teachers and students. As a consequence of such violations and the militarization of communities, thousands of indigenous persons have been evacuated from their communities to evacuation centres in urban areas.

B. With respect to the implementation of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum addressed specifically to your agency:

(i) Please provide information on progress

13. The secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity advised that there were no recommendations from the fourteenth session of the Permanent Forum that were of relevance to the Convention. In response to previous recommendations, the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related

Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity[2] has recommended that, at its thirteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopt a decision along the following lines:

> The Conference of the Parties,
>
> *Recalling* decision XII/12 F on the terminology "indigenous peoples and local communities",
>
> *Noting* the recommendations contained in paragraphs 26 and 27 of the report of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on its tenth session (E/2011/43-E/C.19/2011/14),
>
> 1. *Invites* the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to consider taking a decision to apply, mutatis mutandis, decision XII/12 F of the Conference of the Parties;
>
> 2. *Notes* the recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues made at its thirteenth and fourteenth sessions, and requests the Executive Secretary to continue to inform the Permanent Forum on developments of mutual interest.

14. FAO has organized a series of training and capacity development activities targeted at indigenous peoples, as set out below:

(a) Two regional capacity development programmes on the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of the Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security in Central America and Asia;

(b) Four national capacity development programmes for indigenous women leadership and empowerment, together with the International Indigenous Women's Forum, in seven countries in Central America and Asia.

15. At its fourteenth session, in 2015, the Permanent Forum made a recommendation to funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system to develop social policies that would enhance the production of indigenous peoples' traditional foods and promote the restoration or recovery of lost drought-resistant indigenous food varieties to ensure food security. In that context, the Forum also recommended that Burkina Faso, Mali and the Niger, as well as such United Nations entities as FAO, IFAD and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, establish a committee, in full consultation with and with the participation of indigenous peoples, aimed at preventing food crises in the sub-Saharan region where indigenous peoples reside. In that regard, FAO is actively working in relief and humanitarian activities together with the other United Nations system organizations in Burkina Faso, Mali and the Niger. FAO is also actively participating in the food security cluster, which is co-chaired by the World Food Programme (WFP) and FAO.

16. With reference to a recommendation made by the Permanent Forum at its twelfth session, in May 2013, to convene a workshop on African pastoralism, indigenous peoples' rights and climate adaptation, a special session on pastoralists

[2] See UNEP/CBD/COP/13/3 and UNEP/CBD/WG8J/REC/9/4.

was held at the sixth global meeting of the Farmers' Forum, held at IFAD in February 2016. Responding to the recommendation to IFAD to convene a dialogue platform with the private sector, IFAD is currently partnering with the Centre for the Autonomy and Development of Indigenous Peoples to conduct a study on the engagement of indigenous peoples with the private sector. The study is aimed at examining opportunities for furthering the economic development of indigenous peoples through their engagement, on an equal basis, with the private sector.

17. With respect to the recommendation to UNDP to assist the Permanent Forum in developing an indigenous peoples development index, a UNDP policy adviser discussed challenges and opportunities with respect to data disaggregation, access to justice, and participation and representation in decision-making in relevant bodies during the fourteenth session of the Forum, and highlighted the need to ensure disaggregation and the inclusion of indigenous peoples in relevant processes. The Chief of Statistics at the Human Development Report Office, speaking on a panel at the 2015 session of the Forum, emphasized the need for disaggregated statistics to capture inequalities within societies and to better understand the situation of indigenous peoples.

18. In line with the recommendations of the Permanent Forum, UNICEF continues to make a major contribution to promoting indigenous children's right to education, with a special focus on intercultural and bilingual education. UNICEF is advancing its work in the development and support of intercultural and bilingual policies and action plans and is assisting with the implementation of programmes and strategies that are producing important lessons in the context of the Fund's increased focus on equity and social inclusion.

(ii) What are some of the obstacles your agency has encountered in implementing the recommendations of the Permanent Forum?

19. Recommendations by the Permanent Forum can include recommendations to the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity or the Convention's governing body, referred to as the Conference of the Parties. The largest obstacle in implementing recommendations directed to the Convention is that the recommended actions are beyond the mandate of the Convention or its secretariat. Recommendations arising from the Permanent Forum need to be within the mandate of the Convention and take into account the different mandates of the secretariat (technical work) and the governing body, which makes all political decisions.

20. The main difficulty when addressing recommendations to FAO lies in the ongoing debate in the Africa region about indigenous peoples. FAO respects the self-identification of indigenous peoples and closely follows the situation in Burkina Faso, Mali and the Niger.

21. IOM stated that the majority of countries in Eastern and Southern Africa and in the Horn of Africa do not have specific legislation on the promotion and protection of indigenous peoples' rights. One exception is the Republic of the Congo, where the Parliament, on 30 December 2010, adopted such a law. According to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, no other countries in Africa have legislation that provides for the protection of indigenous peoples' rights. This in itself represents a significant obstacle, given that it restricts the possibility of recognition of the legitimacy of indigenous structures, institutions and regimes. The fact that pastoralists do not benefit from formal recognition and

protection in the way that displaced people groups do also exacerbates problems. For example, displaced pastoralists in north-eastern Kenya have little recourse to legal or political support from the Government and are rarely mentioned in either national or international discourses about displacement in Kenya and other countries in the region.

22. Obstacles encountered in the Fund's work on indigenous peoples' issues have varied across countries, influenced by, inter alia, national priorities and political opportunities. As previously reported to the Permanent Forum, in some countries, challenges are related to the lack of knowledge and dissemination of the Forum's recommendations, the lack of disaggregated data on indigenous peoples and the lack of knowledge and expertise on indigenous peoples' rights on the part of the duty bearers for children's rights. In some instances, indigenous peoples' rights have not been visible in the country's development priorities or there has been lack of support and commitment on the part of government institutions for the protection and fulfilment of indigenous children's rights.

23. UNICEF also stated that challenges related to limited financial resources to meet the multiple needs of indigenous communities and the high costs related to the difficulty in accessing remote indigenous communities have also been reported. Institutional weakness, the dispersion of indigenous organizations and the lack of coordination of actions at the national level and with local indigenous authorities also present challenges to the full implementation of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum.

24. The Permanent Forum's recommendation that UNDP undertake measures to address the situation of indigenous peoples in developed countries is outside the mandate of the Programme and therefore cannot be directly implemented. UNDP has a wide network of offices in more than 175 countries but as a development agency does not implement programmes in developed countries. While UNDP will continue to play a convening and advocacy role at both the global and regional levels, the extent to which UNDP can directly address the special situation faced by indigenous people in developed countries is limited.

(iii) What are some of the drivers that facilitate your agency's implementation of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum?

25. The secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity stated that it is crucial that recommendations be informed by the mandate of the relevant agency. Given that the secretariat is not an implementing body per se and that all activities undertaken are mandated by decisions of the Conference of the Parties and funded through voluntary donations, recommendations that do not have financial implications are often the easiest to implement.

26. The main driver that facilitated the implementation by FAO of the Permanent Forum's recommendation was the involvement and work of some indigenous peoples' organizations and individuals that work closely with FAO at the global, regional and national levels.

27. IFAD has been implementing the majority of the recommendations made by the Permanent Forum in recent years. This has been possible owing to the Forum's tailored approach in ensuring that recommendations are framed on the basis of the mandates, resources and capacity of each organization. Collaboration with Forum

members during the annual sessions to ensure coherence and synergies, with particular reference to recommendations and follow-up, has enabled IFAD and United Nations agencies to positively respond to the recommendations.

28. With respect to IOM, the drivers that facilitate its work include support by Governments and their interest in seeing the pastoralist communities stabilize; partnerships between different agencies, including State and non-State actors and regional bodies, which guarantee a holistic approach in addressing issues affecting pastoral groups, including through a coordinated agency response within the United Nations Development Assistance Framework. The involvement of targeted communities in the design and implementation of programmes, which ensures sustainability and the involvement of existing traditional structures and mechanisms in programming, is important.

29. UNICEF stated that the facilitating factors in the implementation of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum have also varied across countries. In some, the presence of political will and progress in legislation and institutional areas (for example, constitutional reforms and institutional commitment to indigenous peoples' rights) have helped to push forward the agenda for indigenous peoples' rights. In some countries, the Forum recommendations directed at national authorities, as well as country visits and recommendations by the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, have facilitated the implementation of the recommendations.

30. The inclusion of indigenous issues in regional and national forums, national consultation frameworks that facilitate the convening of meetings of key stakeholders, and expanded strategic partnerships among United Nations agencies under the authority of the resident coordinator have also been identified as facilitators by UNICEF country offices. In some instances, documentation of evidence and availability of data to support advocacy efforts have contributed to the advancement of the rights of indigenous peoples. Catalytic funding to support access by indigenous peoples to essential services has also been reported as a facilitating factor. Lastly, identifying and addressing equity gaps and promoting social equality as major objectives of UNICEF country cooperation programmes have helped to bring attention to indigenous peoples' issues and advance the implementation of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum.

31. Political commitment at the global and country levels on the part of senior UNDP officials is essential for broader implementation of the Permanent Forum's recommendations and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Sustainable Development Goal agenda of leaving no one behind provides a strong platform for mainstreaming the rights of indigenous peoples in UNDP programmes. The adoption of the Social and Environmental Standard on Indigenous Peoples also makes it mandatory to further indigenous peoples' rights in projects and programmes that affect them, for example, through free, prior and informed consent processes and/or the development of targeted project plans for indigenous peoples.

C. Please provide information on programmes, projects or other activities that are specifically aimed at promoting the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples or activities where indigenous peoples are among the major beneficiaries. Where possible, please provide links to websites, publications or other sources of relevant information.

32. With respect to the Secretary-General's system-wide action plan to ensure a coherent approach to achieving the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity is committed to reporting on progress achieved in matters within the mandate of the Convention.

33. The Department of Public Information stated that it is working with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and other United Nations system partners on the development and implementation of a communications strategy for the system-wide action plan to ensure a coherent approach to achieving the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The action plan calls for a media and outreach strategy to raise awareness and build support for the Declaration and promote its implementation.

34. The projects and programmes developed by FAO in this area are too numerous to list in the present report. However, information on the indigenous peoples' caucus, FAO focal points at the global, regional and national levels and the FAO and indigenous peoples' joint work plan 2015-2018 is available from http://www.fao.org/indigenous-peoples/en/.

35. In 2015, the Executive Board of IFAD approved 16 projects (financed through loans and country grants) supporting indigenous and tribal peoples and ethnic minorities in Asia, Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean. Disaggregated data show that the total funding benefiting indigenous peoples is about $400 million, $167 million of which has been directly contributed by IFAD. In 2015, the IFAD Independent Office of Evaluation prepared an evaluation synthesis report on the Fund's engagement with indigenous peoples to highlight good practices, generate lessons, identify key issues for reflection and make recommendations for future IFAD operations to strengthen the Fund's engagement with indigenous peoples in the pursuit of a more inclusive and sustainable transformation of the rural sector.

36. Over the years, IOM has implemented various activities among the target group, including: (a) the Security in Mobility initiative, which advocates for integrated and comprehensive interventions; research and assessment; community stabilization; peacebuilding and conflict resolution; the establishment of community peace centres, participation in the "pastoral week" and sports for peace events; and the empowerment of reformed warriors (cattle rustlers).

37. OHCHR continues to promote the full application of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in intergovernmental and other processes. In the lead-up to the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in 2015, OHCHR advocated for a human rights-based approach to guide global policies and measures designed to address climate change and consistently stressed the

importance of ensuring meaningful and informed engagement with affected groups, including indigenous peoples.

38. Under the United Nations Development Group framework, OHCHR led the development of the new guidance note on human rights for resident coordinators and United Nations country teams, which was adopted in June 2015. The guidance note includes an annex on specific issues, including indigenous peoples, and sets out how the United Nations can advance the rights of indigenous peoples at the country level through specific actions. In addition, the OHCHR Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Section carried out a number of training and briefing sessions for key stakeholders, including United Nations country teams, OHCHR staff, members of human rights treaty bodies, indigenous peoples' organizations, government officials, parliamentarians and staff of national human rights institutions, in an effort to promote the full application of the Declaration, including the first-ever regional workshop in the Pacific region, held in Vanuatu in August 2015, with a focus on the follow-up to the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.

39. At the global level, in 2015, UNDP supported the implementation of the Declaration at the strategic and policy levels, namely, the development of the system-wide action plan, as well as through the application of the mandatory Social and Environmental Standard on Indigenous Peoples, which includes free, prior and informed consent. UNDP also promotes the implementation of the Declaration through many country-level programmes. For example, it backs national plans and policies that mainstream indigenous peoples' rights and target them specifically through supporting the participation of indigenous peoples in decisions and processes that affect them or in relation to land rights, forest and indigenous culture (for example, programmes of the Global Environment Facility and REDD+ (the mechanism for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries)).

40. The work of UNICEF on indigenous issues forms part of its equity strategy, through which the Fund aims to accelerate progress so that all children have an opportunity to survive, develop and reach their full potential, without discrimination. At the country level, UNICEF offices have undertaken various programmes and activities specifically designed to advance the rights of indigenous peoples, with projects ranging from bilingual and intercultural education and culturally sensitive health-care services to birth registration and the fight against violence, abuse and exploitation. Across regions, UNICEF country offices have adopted the topic of indigenous issues as a priority in multi-year country programmes and action plans.

D. How is your organization planning to support indigenous peoples within its programmes, projects or any other activities in line with the aims of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?

41. The Department of Public Information promotes indigenous peoples' issues and the Sustainable Development Goals and seeks to highlight cross-cutting issues and linkages between the two. For example, the expert group meeting on indigenous peoples and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, held in October 2015, allowed the Department to highlight the importance of including indigenous peoples in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through a press conference, an online

news story and social media. The Department will continue to focus on those issues in future communications activities.

42. FAO has been a key player in the initial discussions, design and finalization of the system-wide action plan on indigenous peoples. Together with other United Nations agencies, FAO insisted that the action plan be mainly practical, hands-on and focused at the country level. This approach has been retained in the final document. In 2016, FAO will co-chair the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples to firmly support the implementation of the system-wide action plan in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

43. Within the framework of the 2030 Agenda, IFAD, together with the other United Nations Rome-based organizations (FAO and WFP), was involved in the development of Sustainable Development Goal 2: end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture. IFAD produced four policy briefs and four implementation briefs on rural development in the post-2015 agenda. One of the policy briefs, entitled "An empowerment agenda for rural livelihoods", has a focus on indigenous peoples.

44. In 2015, IOM launched the Migration, Environment and Climate Change Division within the Department of Migration Management, which aims to contribute to the global knowledge base on the relationship between migration and environmental change, including climate change. One of the strategic objectives of the Division is advocacy for the inclusion of migration into adaptation planning.

45. OHCHR has made a strong contribution to the integration of human rights throughout the process of defining the Sustainable Development Goals and will seek to ensure that strategies and policies to implement the 2030 Agenda are human rights-based. OHCHR has also provided support to special rapporteurs, independent experts and the chairs of the human rights treaty bodies, whose statements and engagement in the 2030 intergovernmental process were instrumental in anchoring human rights in the 2030 Agenda.

46. The focus areas of UNDP, namely, sustainable development, democratic governance and peacebuilding, and climate and disaster resilience, are aligned with all 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Goal 1 on poverty, Goal 10 on inequality and Goal 16 on governance are particularly central to the Programme's current work and long-term plans. At the global level, UNDP is actively participating in the process to establish indicators for the 2030 Agenda. It is anticipated that the global framework will have some 169 indicators.

47. UNICEF is committed to supporting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals for every child, especially the poorest and most disadvantaged. As the Goals were being discussed and drafted, UNICEF supported the participation of indigenous children and communities in consultations on the post-2015 development framework at the local, national and international levels. In line with the aims of the 2030 Agenda, UNICEF offices are developing and implementing initiatives to accelerate progress for the children in greatest need, including indigenous children.

E. Describe any capacity-building initiatives your organization is involved in that are aimed at indigenous peoples, governments, United Nations agencies or others and that feature the rights and well-being of indigenous peoples.

48. In 2016, the Convention on Biological Diversity received funding from the Government of Japan to facilitate, in partnership with regional indigenous organizations, five regional and subregional training programmes for indigenous peoples with train-the-trainer methodology, as well as individual training grants for participants to continue training locally in their home countries.

49. With regular stories on iSeek, in English and French, on indigenous issues, the Department of Public Information continues to raise awareness of indigenous peoples' issues among staff members, including those away from Headquarters. United Nations information centres regularly receive outreach materials and key messages to publicize relevant issues at the national level.

50. The regional workshops held in 2014 in preparation for the second global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD, and the regional working groups that met during the Forum, provided opportunities to build the capacity of IFAD and project staff on indigenous peoples' issues. In addition, as part of mainstreaming the social, environmental and climate assessment procedures adopted by IFAD in 2015, some 260 IFAD staff and project staff participated in awareness sessions and training activities, including a module on free, prior and informed consent.

51. IOM has considered various approaches in empowering the community. In 2015, in partnership with the Green Teams Initiative, IOM conducted a climate change and green team entrepreneurship training programme in countries with arid and semi-arid lands, reaching out to more than 200 young people. The training programme was aimed at encouraging creative and innovative solutions to the effects of climate change. The establishment of peace centres in pastoralist areas provides a neutral space for peace dialogue and resolution and a space where people can exhibit artefacts representing their heritage, thus creating an opportunity for cultural tourism.

52. UNDP supported the production and dissemination of "A Resource Compilation on the Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples" by former Special Rapporteur James Anaya. Aimed at UNDP staff and practitioners, the resource compilation sets forth the standards relating to indigenous peoples' rights and development policies that contribute to the fulfilment of those rights. The compilation also offers tools and detailed guidance on how to operationalize such policies and human rights standards.

53. In 2015, the Equator Initiative designed and supported five peer-to-peer knowledge exchanges among the 2014 winners of the Equator Prize for sustainable land management in sub-Saharan Africa. In October, the Equator Initiative supported the participation of 12 sustainable land management winners to attend the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, in Ankara. At the Conference, they shared their experiences with respect to the knowledge exchanges and engaged in policy debates. Their community statement was shared during the high-level civil society dialogue. The Equator Initiative also manages the World Network of Indigenous Peoples and

Local Community Land and Sea Managers, a network through which indigenous peoples can share their stories, experiences and innovations and raise awareness about their concerns and solutions.

54. The United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries supports the capacity development of indigenous peoples and Government stakeholders through regional and global exchanges, including knowledge-sharing and technical training. Indigenous peoples at the national level were informed of best practices in effective stakeholder engagement in REDD+ in Myanmar in August 2015 and in Viet Nam in September 2015.

55. UNICEF country offices are undertaking capacity-building initiatives in a range of areas, including storytelling, monitoring, health care, child protection, and helping Governments, United Nations agencies, civil society and other actors to better meet the needs of indigenous children and communities and to equip communities themselves with critical tools to realize children's rights.

F. Describe any activities to raise awareness on indigenous peoples, including publications, films, audio material, maps or other materials that feature or focus on indigenous peoples. Include the name, a brief description and information on how to access the material.

56. In support of the regional and subregional training programmes being organized in 2016, the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity has engaged indigenous organizations to develop culturally appropriate training materials in order to support the workshops and the individual trainers in their ongoing training activities.

57. Indigenous peoples feature among the priorities of the Department of Public Information for 2016, as reflected in the annual communications guidance sent to United Nations system partners and United Nations information centres at the end of 2015. The Department supported the fourteenth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, in 2015, with a wide range of multilingual communications activities on all platforms, including television, radio, the United Nations News Centre, webcasts and social media. The activities included press conferences, the design and production of pins and posters and a social media advocacy campaign and portrait photography project entitled "We Are Indigenous". The Department has a number of materials on indigenous peoples, which are outlined in its report to the Permanent Forum.

58. With respect to FAO, information on activities to raise awareness on indigenous peoples is available from http://www.fao.org/indigenous-peoples/en/. In addition to videos, news and testimonials, there are two proposals relating to indigenous peoples: one is to share indigenous peoples' artwork with FAO and the other is to have indigenous peoples organizations prepare a capacity development video for indigenous peoples on the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of the Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security.

59. IFAD has a dedicated web page on its engagement with indigenous peoples: http://www.ifad.org/english/indigenous/index.htm. Material on the second global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD (for example, videos and publications), including the proceedings, is available from http://www.ifad.org/english/indigenous/forum/index.htm.

60. IOM has undertaken the following awareness-raising programmes:

- Promotion of the pastoral week through the media
- Establishment of a community peace and cultural centre in Turkana county, Kenya, that promotes the diverse cultural expressions of the Turkana people and neighbouring communities
- Establishment of a local radio in Turkana county that is managed by a youth group
- Preparation of a number of documentaries, publications (pictorials) on relevant activities, which have been widely distributed.

61. Many of the UNDP projects and programmes have their own communication materials and social media strategies, which are listed in the UNDP report to the Permanent Forum.

62. In order to raise awareness about the situation of indigenous children and young people and advocate for their rights, UNICEF country offices produced a range of publications and multimedia materials. Videos and social media featured prominently as means of disseminating advocacy and informational materials.

G. Does your organization collect or assist with the collection of statistical data on indigenous peoples? If so, please provide further information, including on how to access this information.

63. The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity has adopted four indicators for traditional knowledge in order to measure movement towards target 18 of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, namely, of the status and trends in traditional languages, status and trends in traditional occupations, changes in land use and security of land tenure on traditional territories, and participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the revision of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.

64. FAO trained 17 indigenous peoples from Central and South America in the methodology used in the Voices of the Hungry project for the collection of data at the community level on the perception of food insecurity in indigenous communities. Unfortunately, several difficulties were encountered in the follow-up and collection of the actual data, which has delayed the exercise. It is expected that in 2016, some of these issues will be resolved and the data for indigenous peoples will be gathered in several countries of Latin America. Once the results are finalized in Latin America, FAO will expand the training on this methodology to other regions of the world.

65. IOM Ethiopia has continually carried out surveys using the displacement tracking matrix system, and the internal displacement monitoring report is available and widely used by both government and humanitarian actors. These surveys have also targeted the pastoralist communities living in the southern part of Ethiopia. In

early 2015, IOM Kenya conducted a survey using the displacement tracking matrix system across seven counties in Kenya in order to approximate the number of internally displaced persons in the country. Five of the seven counties targeted the pastoralist communities, which are prone to pastoral conflicts. In addition, a socioeconomic survey was conducted in Garissa County, Kenya. The statistical data and both the reports are available. In 2014, IOM Tanzania undertook the voluntary registration of over 30,000 irregular migrants, the majority of whom were from neighbouring countries. The purpose was to register irregular Burundian, Rwandan and Ugandan migrants who wished to regularize their status in the United Republic of Tanzania. Many irregular migrants from Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Uganda live in the region. Their migration background varies, but some were driven to migrate as a result of environmental factors.

66. In line with the promise of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind, monitoring efforts should assess progress in achieving results for all people. This will require disaggregated data that clearly reveal the situation of the most disadvantaged groups and affected by discrimination, including indigenous peoples. In that regard, OHCHR organized an expert meeting in October 2015 on human rights-based approaches to data and statistics to develop practical guidance on responding to the call to leave no one behind with due respect for human rights norms and principles, including in respect of self-identification, data disaggregation, participation, data protection and accountability. In addition to ensuring a process of full, active and meaningful participation of relevant stakeholders, including marginalized groups, in all stage of data collection, the workshop also highlighted the need to make the data collection meaningful for the relevant stakeholders.

67. A number of UNDP country offices have collected statistical data on indigenous peoples for their country assessments, the national human development index or programme reports and assessments. However, UNDP recognizes the need for further collection and disaggregation of data in order to effectively support initiatives at the country level.

68. UNICEF recognizes that the availability of reliable, disaggregated data is critical to assessing the situation of indigenous children and youth, revealing the disparities between indigenous and non-indigenous populations and informing evidence-based policies and programmes. The UNICEF Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey[3] programme is a cornerstone of rigorous, internationally comparable data on the situation of children and families.

H. Does your organization support the participation of indigenous peoples, at the United Nations or elsewhere, in decision-making processes that affect them? This includes financial support, policies on participation, consultative mechanisms, or any other initiative that promotes the participation of indigenous peoples.

69. States parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity remain committed to the participation of indigenous and local community representatives in the work of the Convention, as is evidenced in a substantial report on indigenous and local community participation submitted to the Permanent Forum at its ninth session, in

[3] See http://mics.unicef.org/workshops.

2010 and in an extensive report submitted in December 2009 to OHCHR. The secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity contributed to the OHCHR expert study on indigenous peoples and the right to participate in decision-making undertaken by the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Convention on Biological Diversity remains the only multilateral environmental agreement to have established a voluntary fund to facilitate the participation of indigenous and local community representatives in meetings held under the Convention.

70. FAO has been financially supporting the travel and participation of indigenous peoples in meetings and forums related to the FAO mandate at the global, regional and national levels.

71. Together with the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs and the secretariat of the Permanent Forum, IFAD is currently supporting policy dialogue among indigenous peoples, Governments and the United Nations country teams on the development of national action plans to implement the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Policy dialogues have been held in El Salvador and Paraguay, with indigenous peoples' organizations leading the process. The same process will be replicated in two countries in Asia and two countries in Africa in 2016.

72. IOM is undertaking policy advocacy with a focus on promoting migration as an adaptation strategy for climate change. In partnership with the Department for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, UNEP and the Institute for Security Studies, IOM launched the Security in Mobility initiative. The project was initiated as a result of the IOM study entitled *Pastoralism at the Edge: Effects of drought, climate change and migration on livelihood systems of pastoralist and mobile communities in Kenya*.

73. OHCHR has played an active role in the efforts to advance the participation of indigenous peoples in decision-making processes, including in the context of the Human Rights Council. In September 2015, it organized a Human Rights Council panel on the follow-up to the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, which included discussions on the participation of indigenous peoples in United Nations processes. The Office further contributed to the report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the implementation of the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (A/70/84-E/2015/76), including specific proposals to enable the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions based on input received from indigenous peoples' organizations. At the request of the Human Rights Council in its resolution 30/11, the Office will hold a workshop in April 2016 in Geneva to review the mandate of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and will support the participation of indigenous experts in the meeting.

74. UNICEF has continued to support the participation of indigenous peoples, including children and adolescents, in decision-making processes at all levels by promoting consultations, organizing forums and strengthening indigenous peoples' organizations. Examples of the Fund's support for indigenous peoples' participation include support for the creation of the National Network of Indigenous Peoples of the Congo in the Republic of the Congo and the provision of technical assistance

and consultative mechanisms to enhance the participation of indigenous women and adolescent girls in Guatemala. In Colombia, Ecuador and several other countries, UNICEF has sought to ensure that indigenous communities, including women and children, have a say in the development of programmes and services that affect them. In El Salvador, UNICEF supported three consultations with women and adolescent girls to inform the action plan to guarantee the rights of indigenous peoples that is being developed under the coordination of the National Indigenous Coordinating Council of El Salvador.

I. Provide information on conferences and other meetings organized or supported by your organization on indigenous peoples for 2016 and 2017 or in which indigenous peoples will be invited to participate.

75. A calendar of the meetings of the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity that are of relevance to indigenous peoples is available from https://www.cbd.int/meetings/.

76. The Department of Public Information will support a number of meetings in 2016 and 2017, as set out below.

- International expert group meeting on indigenous languages (19-21 January 2016)
- Fifteenth and sixteenth sessions of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (May 2016 and 2017)
- International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples (9 August 2016 and 2017)
- Tenth anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (13 September 2017).

77. In 2016, IFAD will support indigenous peoples' representatives from pastoralist organizations to participate in the sixth global meeting of the Farmers' Forum and in the related regional consultations in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean. In preparation for the third global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD, scheduled to take place in February 2017, it is expected that four regional consultations will be organized, in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Pacific. IFAD will also co-chair the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues with FAO and the International Land Coalition and will co-host the annual meeting of the Inter-Agency Support Group, to be held in Rome in the fall of 2016. During the next session of the Permanent Forum, IFAD will also support the youth caucus in its training sessions.

78. UNDP will undertake the following activities in 2016:

- "Dialogue among indigenous legislators", Indigenous Parliament of America and UNDP, Panama, March 2016
- Executive Board meetings of the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (two to be held in 2016; two to be held in 2017)

- Assembly of the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries, to be held in June 2016
- Oslo REDD+ Exchange, to be held in June 2016.

J. Does your organization support or have long-standing partnerships (including of multi-stakeholder character, with non-United Nations partners of relevance to indigenous peoples, such as the private sector, academia and research centres, as well as regional or national networks representing indigenous peoples) towards achieving the goals of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples?

79. A number of United Nations information centres have had long-standing relationships with indigenous peoples' organizations in their respective areas. The United Nations Information Centre in Mexico City, for example, has been working with the National Commission for the Development of Indigenous Peoples and the National Indigenous Languages Institute.

80. Since 2010, FAO has been fostering partnerships with civil society, academia, the private sector and cooperatives. In 2012, it adopted two new strategies to partner with civil society and the private sector. The number and depth of partnerships has multiplied significantly. The FAO indigenous peoples team works within the Office of Partnerships, Capacity Development and Advocacy.

81. Initiatives such as the Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility, the Indigenous Peoples' Forum and global and regional grant activities have contributed to building trust and partnerships with indigenous peoples' organizations and other stakeholders. The Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD includes a steering committee comprising seven members of indigenous peoples' institutions. Similarly, the Board of the Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility is composed primarily of representatives of indigenous peoples' institutions and is co-managed at the regional level by indigenous peoples' organizations: the Tebtebba Foundation, for Asia and the Pacific; Kivulini Trust, for Africa; and the International Indigenous Women's Forum, for Latin America.

82. With respect to IOM, partnerships have led to the mapping of the major transhumance corridors and the establishment of pilot transhumance corridors with identified key priority routes. A model has already been developed for an Intergovernmental Authority on Development transhumance certificate, which will enable relevant authorities to monitor herds before they leave the country of origin, protect the health of local herds and inform the host community of the arrival of transhumance livestock.

83. UNDP collaborates internationally, regionally and nationally with a wide range of partners to advance work relating to the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including through:

- Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues
- National collaborations with national indigenous peoples' networks

- Regional collaborations with networks such as the Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee, the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact, the Mesoamerican Alliance for People and Forests and the Coordinator of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon River Basin.

84. To advance the rights of indigenous children and youth, UNICEF country offices have forged partnerships with indigenous peoples' organizations, including those representing children and young people, non-governmental organizations, civil society, academic institutions, government agencies and the private sector. These partnerships are outlined in the UNICEF report to the Permanent Forum and can be found on the Forum's website for the fifteenth session.

K. Does your organization include social safeguards in programmatic and project work that include a specific policy or principle on indigenous peoples? Has your organization adopted the principle of free, prior and informed consent as a requirement for project development with indigenous peoples?

85. In 2015, FAO amended its Environmental and Social Management Guidelines and its project cycle to make free, prior and informed consent compulsory for all FAO projects, programmes and actions affecting indigenous peoples both inside and outside the project area. FAO is also finalizing a training programme for FAO staff to implement free, prior and informed consent in the field. This capacity development programme has been co-designed by FAO and some of its partners in the field, including ActionAid, Action Against Hunger, World Vision, the German Agency for International Cooperation, the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and Plan International. In 2016, FAO will begin training project and programme managers in free, prior and informed consent.

86. The size and nature of IFAD-financed projects and the Fund's attention to targeting, participatory approaches, community development, empowerment and inclusion have enabled IFAD to naturally follow a proactive approach to supporting indigenous peoples as part of its target group. Unlike most other international financial institutions, which apply a "do no harm" approach, IFAD policy on engagement with indigenous peoples is of a proactive nature and includes the principle of free, prior and informed consent.

87. IOM has developed tools and frameworks that respond to the needs of indigenous peoples, in particular in targeted materials that have been developed by IOM Colombia.

88. UNDP has developed the Social and Environmental Standards and has made its application mandatory for all UNDP projects since 1 January 2015. The objectives of the standards are to: strengthen the social and environmental outcomes of UNDP programmes and projects; prevent adverse impacts on people and the environment; minimize, mitigate and manage adverse impacts where prevention is not possible; strengthen capacities for managing social and environmental risks; and ensure full and effective stakeholder engagement, including through a mechanism to respond to complaints from people affected by UNDP projects. The Project-Level Standard on Indigenous Peoples establishes that all projects that may impact the

rights, lands, resources and territories of indigenous peoples require prior review and/or assessment of potential impacts and benefits. Projects with potentially significant adverse impacts require a full social and environmental assessment conducted by an independent and capable entity.

89. In its work with and for indigenous peoples, UNICEF uses specific strategies to prevent and mitigate undue harm as a result of its programmatic efforts. In line with the principle of free, prior and informed consent, UNICEF country offices in Latin America, Asia and Africa have been successful in engaging indigenous peoples, including women, children and young people, in the design, implementation and monitoring of programmes that affect them and creating opportunities for meaningful participation.

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Compilation of information received from indigenous peoples' organizations

Note by the Secretariat

Summary

The present note is a compilation of the responses received from indigenous peoples' organizations to a questionnaire on actions taken or planned in relation to indigenous peoples, in order to identify and share good practices. The questionnaire and the complete responses are available on the website of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/unpfii-sessions-2/unpfii-fifteenth-session.html).

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I. Introduction

1. The present note is the first compilation of information received from indigenous peoples' organizations on the implementation of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.[1] The Permanent Forum welcomes the participation of indigenous peoples in its sessions and acknowledges and thanks the organizations that have provided reports. It urges indigenous peoples' organizations to continue to provide information on their activities.

II. Responses from indigenous peoples' organizations

1. Association of Cwa Tribes of Mweka, Democratic Republic of the Congo

2. The Association represents the indigenous Cwa people of the Mweka territory, which has a large indigenous population, estimated to be approximately 10,000. The Association is the only indigenous organization founded by indigenous peoples, led by indigenous peoples and composed of indigenous peoples from the kasaïen area, in the central part of the country. Indigenous peoples from other territories have also asked to join the Association. In response, the Association has initiated the creation of "Together for the integral development of indigenous peoples of Kasai", an organization that will include all indigenous groups (Batwa, Cwa, Basangana and Bakua Ngombe) of the kasaïen area. The main challenge being faced is the lack of financial means to complete the administrative formalities to establish the organization.

3. The aims and objectives of the Association are to establish and strengthen solidarity and cooperation among all indigenous villages; raise awareness of self-determination; preserve indigenous cultural heritage; defend, protect and promote the rights of indigenous Cwa people and their struggle against all forms of marginalization; and protect indigenous forests. The Association has not participated in previous sessions of the Permanent Forum, but plans to do so in May 2016.

4. The Association makes efforts towards the peaceful resolution of conflicts between indigenous peoples and other ethnic groups. It has not been involved in any national efforts to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and is keen to do so. However, there is a gap in communication between national indigenous organizations and those in the field at the local level. Cwa indigenous peoples are increasingly becoming aware of their rights. A major obstacle is the lack of financial resources to organize regular information-sharing events in indigenous villages on the Declaration. Another obstacle is that other ethnic groups are not aware of the Declaration.

5. The ongoing work of the Association will include socioenvironmental safeguards, sessions on restitutions, providing feedback on all activities and assisting members in attending meetings at the national and international levels, as well as ensuring wide dissemination of the Declaration.

[1] The questionnaire was prepared by the secretariat of the Permanent Forum and sent to more than 300 indigenous peoples' organizations and networks, based on participation in Forum sessions, and 20 responses were received.

2. Bureau of Consultation for West Papua Indigenous Community Development, Indonesia

6. The main objective of the organization is to serve indigenous peoples in the areas of non-formal education, agriculture, primary health care, social welfare and the revitalization of traditional government systems. The goal of the organization is to focus on the grass-roots groups who live in isolated areas or villages. The organization represents the West Papuan indigenous peoples, whose total population is around 2 million. Members of the organization attended the first session of the Permanent Forum, in 2002.

7. The organization implements the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by raising awareness and having an understanding of free, prior and informed consent.

8. The organization has been involved in State-led measures to implement the Declaration, and has facilitated cooperation between the Government and indigenous peoples in this regard. One of the main roles of the organization has been to raise awareness of the Declaration in the villages. While some groups have some understanding of the Declaration, others, especially those people who live in remote villages, do not have any awareness. The challenge is to obtain the resources necessary to reach indigenous peoples in the hinterland.

9. In 2016, the organization plans to support a programme on the revitalization of Klisi, Namblong and Kemtuik's traditional government system in Jayapura Regency, Papua Province, the aim of which is to revitalize the traditional government system of the Klisi, Namblong and Kemtuik peoples through traditional wisdom and indigenous knowledge.

3. Comitê Intertribal — memória e ciência indígena, Brazil

10. The organization was founded in 1991 to support the participation of indigenous peoples in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992. Indigenous peoples adopted the Kari-Oca Declaration during this process. In 2012, the organization was involved in the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the eighth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change by working on the protection of traditional knowledge and biodiversity.

11. The mission of the organization is to protect the rights of indigenous peoples on issues including the demarcation of lands and territories, their cultural heritage, the environment and interculturalism. In all its activities, the organization seeks to encourage indigenous participation, including the traditional chiefs, spiritual leaders, youth, men and women. The organization values respect for indigenous identity and sovereignty. In this regard, it works with around 40 indigenous groups in Brazil.

12. The organization was engaged in the process to adopt the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and in the creation of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. Several of its members have participated in numerous sessions of the Permanent Forum, including in 2014 and 2015. In 2015, it organized, with the participation of 24 countries, the first World Indigenous Games

in Palmas, Brazil, with the support of the Government of Brazil and the United Nations Development Programme, among others.

13. In Brazil, indigenous people face many problems in such areas as social, health, land demarcation, racism and education. The organization's main aim is to disseminate information about indigenous cultures and their traditions, heritage and customs. This is done by organizing indigenous events, such as national and international indigenous games, side events during international environmental events and indigenous cultural festivals.

14. Brazil is a very diverse country, with more than 300 indigenous peoples and ethnic groups. Currently, 14 per cent of the Brazilian territory is recognized as indigenous lands or territories. The official recognition is through the federal Government, which generates major conflicts of interest involving the Brazilian parliament, the judiciary and those opposed to land demarcation and indigenous interests.

15. In terms of State-led measures to implement the Declaration, several seminars and meetings have been held that have resulted in important indigenous recommendations; however, this is not enough for the full implementation of indigenous rights. A significant area that remains unclear concerns the formula adopted for "free consultation". In Brazil, the Declaration is seen as an international reference document. The obstacle to its application goes beyond the legal field and has become a political debate.

16. Capacity-building activities include discussions and debates on indigenous peoples at major political events, such as the World Social Forum. The United Nations Development Programme supported the organization during its most recent event. In 2016, the organization will hold the thirteenth Indigenous Peoples' Games in Brazil, and in 2017, it will be one of the organizers of the second World Indigenous Games. These activities will include political and traditional aspects, where sporting activities will focus on indigenous identity.

4. Consejo Nacional de Ayllus y Markas del Qullasuyu, Bolivia (Plurinational State of)

17. The organization pursues the re-establishment of indigenous peoples' territories, their self-government and the preservation of their sacred sites. It represents 15 indigenous nations: Karangas, Killakas, Qharaqharas, Chischas, Yamparas, Chuis, Charkas, Suras, Pakajaqis, Qullas, Kallawayas, Larikajas, Pukina and Urus (composed of Markas aran and urin). All of them are organized as Ayllus and are located in the highlands of five departments of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, representing 800,000 families. The urban Ayllus in La Paz are in the process of reconstitution.

18. The organization does not work specifically on conflict issues, but views conflict as an inherent concern in indigenous territories owing to the presence of mining companies and corporations that often generate violence against indigenous women.

19. The organization has stated that the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia has not shown any political will to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Government has also approved several laws without having consulted indigenous peoples, such as mining

laws, mining concessions to private companies and expansion of the agricultural frontier for agricultural exports, at the expense of indigenous peoples. The organization reports that there has not been any advancement or progress in the implementation of the Declaration, and it would appear that the recognition of indigenous rights goes back to International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention No. 107, which has a culturally assimilationist orientation.

20. Community members of the organization work within their own self-government structures. However, there is a lack of consultation regarding the exploitation of natural resources on indigenous peoples' lands. The lack of consultation leads to conflict and the criminalization of indigenous leaders and authorities.

21. The organization does not receive any support from the United Nations. During 2016, it will organize the general assembly of the Andean Coordinator of Indigenous Organizations, its own ninth annual meeting and other meetings to implement the rights of indigenous peoples.

5. Consejo de Pueblos Originarios Nahuat Pipil, El Salvador

22. The organization represents the Nahua Pipil peoples. Its objective is to promote the rights of indigenous peoples, especially in relation to land and territories, food sovereignty, cultural rights and empowering women and youth. Members of the organization attended the twelfth, thirteenth and fourteenth sessions of the Permanent Forum, where they put forward recommendations on the need for Governments to comply with their constitutional mandates. They also met the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples.

23. The organization is not involved in any State-led measures to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. One of its major successes has been the election of the first indigenous mayor of Izalco, from among 262 municipalities.

24. The organization implements the Declaration by elaborating public policies with State institutions and establishing practices in order to exercise indigenous peoples' autonomy in practising their traditional medicine and promoting their languages. While there are workshops to disseminate information, the organization's resources are limited; the work is therefore conducted on a voluntary basis. The organization does not receive support from the United Nations.

25. Conferences and meetings to be held in 2016 and 2017 include:

- Commemoration of the massacre of 1932 (held in January)
- Exchange of knowledge with 15 communities
- Exchange of seeds three times per year
- Indigenous women festival, on 9 August
- Yalcuilcat Festival
- Eighth Nahuat Pipil Cultural Festival
- Peace and Dignity Festivity.

6. Corporación Cultural y Ecológica Mujer, Tejer y Saberes, Colombia

26. The organization represents indigenous women from different communities and their families who have been displaced by armed conflict. It focuses on empowering indigenous women leaders, promoting their active participation in decision-making processes and training them on economic projects in order for them to develop their cultural identity, as well as generating their own income, using their traditional knowledge and values.

27. The organization has not participated in any session of the Permanent Forum. However, the theme for the fifteenth session of the Permanent Forum is of particular relevance because in Colombia there are 85,126 indigenous women victims of land grabs, terrorist acts, forced disappearances, forced displacement, anti-personnel mines, killings, kidnappings, torture and forced recruitment. There are also many women victims who are not registered. The organization mainly focuses on the practice and preservation of indigenous culture in the city of Bogota, especially for children born outside their territories, with the intention that they will be able to return to the territory of their parents once a peace deal has been signed. It also provides psychosocial support to women victims of violence by performing traditional collective activities in which dialogue and personal and collective mourning is encouraged. The women are also trained in women's rights and gender equality and leadership and to preserve their native languages.

28. There is a view that peace will generate opportunities for indigenous women and their families who have suffered the effects of armed conflict. If there are no effective public policies for indigenous peoples' peace and conflict, any resolution will continue to be words only, and a source of enrichment for others. The organization receives some support from the International Organization for Migration for a project entitled "Minoyamena", which relates to the situation of displacement of indigenous women in the context of the armed conflict. The organization continues to focus on the rights of indigenous peoples in all its activities, especially in workshops with indigenous peoples and members of government institutions and non-governmental organizations.

29. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is not a legally binding instrument in Colombia and therefore is not relevant for the Government. However, the Constitutional Court of Colombia has quoted the Declaration where it has recognized indigenous collective rights. The organization regards the Declaration as a working tool for the development of activities with indigenous peoples; in its activities and workshops, information on indigenous peoples' rights and the Declaration are disseminated.

7. Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee), Canada

30. The main objectives and goals of the organization are to work towards solving the problems of the Cree people of Quebec; to affirm, exercise, protect and recognize the rights, claims and interests of the Cree people of Quebec; to promote, protect and assist in preserving the way of life, values and traditions of the Cree people of Quebec; to act as a regional or local government, authority, administrative or managerial body, institution or group in respect to such subject matters as may be given, delegated or confided to it by the Cree people; to improve and assist in improving the conditions in Cree communities and lands of northern Quebec; and to foster and promote the development of the Cree communities, lands and people of

Quebec. The Grand Council of the Crees represents approximately 18,000 Crees residing in nine Cree communities in James Bay, Quebec.

31. The organization has participated in all 14 sessions of the Permanent Forum, from 2002 to 2015. In terms of the theme of the fifteenth session of the Forum, "Indigenous peoples: conflict, peace and resolution", it has been noted that conflicts often arise in the context of lands, territories and resources and, in particular, the implementation of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement of 1975, which constitutes a treaty under the Constitution of Canada, and violence against indigenous women and girls. The Grand Council of the Crees has engaged actively in litigation and entered into numerous agreements with the federal and Quebec governments since early in the 1970s. It also called for a national inquiry into murdered and missing indigenous women and girls. The Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau, and the newly elected federal Government have formally announced that such an inquiry will take place in 2016.

32. A top priority of the newly elected federal Government is to implement recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, starting with the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Grand Council of the Crees is a member of a broad coalition of indigenous and human rights organizations whose main purpose is to collaborate with the Government of Canada in implementing the Declaration through a national action plan. The main challenge is to ensure that the Government interprets the Declaration in a manner consistent with indigenous peoples' rights and related State obligations under international human rights law.

33. In 2010, a workshop on the Declaration was organized to inform Cree community justice officers and community reintegration officers. Webinars that are accessible to Cree communities on the Declaration have also been held nationwide. As in past years, the Coalition for the Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which includes the Grand Council of the Crees, will continue to hold meetings in 2016 and 2017 on indigenous rights and concerns. Such meetings include both international and national human rights strategies.

8. Indigenous Municipality of Sololá, Department of Sololá (Municipalidad Indígena de Sololá del Departamento de Sololá), Guatemala

34. The Indigenous Municipality of Sololá, Department of Sololá, Guatemala, aims to ensure that indigenous peoples are able to live in conditions of equality, with equal opportunities and without discrimination or exclusion. It also aims to apply indigenous peoples' systems of justice to resolve conflicts and guarantee social, cultural, economic and political rights, harmonious coexistence, peace and balance. The organization represents the Maya Kaqchikel peoples.

35. Representatives of the organization participated in the thirteenth session of the Permanent Forum, in 2014. The organization has coordinated with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Guatemala to organize training activities, meetings, exchanges of experiences and meetings with judges of the Constitutional Court on issues relating to the rights of indigenous peoples in accordance with national legal frameworks, conventions, treaties and declarations.

36. The mayors of the Indigenous Municipality of Sololá, Department of Sololá are the traditional authorities; they have solved several conflicts as they are the

mediators at all levels. They have been dealing with several government institutions to raise awareness on the importance of respecting the traditional systems of conflict resolution for the harmony of the community as a whole.

37. The organization has indicated that it is not aware of any initiative of the Government of Guatemala to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. However, the Declaration is an important instrument that is used to advocate for their rights. There is a lack of knowledge on the Declaration within government institutions; therefore, the policies adopted are often not in line with the Declaration or other human rights instruments. However, the traditional authorities are using it in their daily work to advocate for their rights and to promote respect for their traditional ways of living.

38. The mayors of the Indigenous Municipality of Sololá, Department of Sololá are implementing a programme to strengthen the traditional authorities, with the support of the Embassy of Sweden. They have also been supported by the United Nations country team in capacity-building sessions to promote dialogue with the Constitutional Court of Guatemala. From January 2016, they will be in charge of indigenous authorities.

9. Kapaeeng Foundation, Bangladesh

39. The Kapaeeng Foundation is a human rights organization for indigenous peoples in Bangladesh. It was established on 1 April 2004 with a view to working for the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples of the country. The vision of the organization is to establish a society based on the values of justice, equity and freedom in which the fundamental freedoms and human rights of indigenous peoples are ensured. Its mission is, among other things, to promote and protect the human rights of the indigenous peoples of the country and to conduct advocacy, lobbying and campaign programmes at the local, national, regional and international levels and to raise the capacity of indigenous peoples in promoting and protecting their human rights. It tries to represent all the indigenous groups or community regarding violations of their human rights.

40. Kapaeeng Foundation representatives have attended sessions of the Permanent Forum from 2009 to 2012 and in 2014 and 2015. By attending the sessions, the representatives are able to raise emerging issues by presenting statements. They also have the opportunity to strengthen networks for greater solidarity. The Kapaeeng Foundation has organized capacity-building training activities for indigenous human rights defenders on different areas of human rights for indigenous peoples.

41. The promotion and protection of rights and the establishment of peace and harmony are interconnnected. Throughout the year, there are a number of activities that are relevant to indigenous peoples, conflict, peace and resolution. The Kapaeeng Foundation works closely with the National Human Rights Commission of Bangladesh on land disputes. It also works on issues with regard to tourism, primary education for indigenous children in their mother tongue and, with the Bangladesh Indigenous Women's Network, the rights of indigenous women.

42. Indigenous peoples are not recognized as indigenous in Bangladesh; this is the main obstacle to the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Moreover, the Government and mainstream society are not respectful or sensitized enough to the ethnic and cultural diversity of

indigenous peoples. As the Kapaeeng Foundation is a human rights organization, it collects data and information relating to violations of human rights, including indigenous peoples' rights to ancestral land and culture.

43. As a specialized agency of the United Nations system, ILO directly supports the organization's work on indigenous peoples with its project on indigenous and tribal peoples, through which it holds meetings, training activities, workshops and capacity-building activities. Moreover, the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples supports representatives' attendance at meetings of United Nations bodies related to indigenous peoples' rights, including the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Permanent Forum.

44. Conferences and meetings to be held in 2016 and 2017 include:

- National preparatory meeting for United Nations mechanisms related to indigenous peoples (2016 or 2017)
- National dialogue after the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- National workshop on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+)
- Third national indigenous women's conference (2016)
- Regional capacity-building training for indigenous women and girls
- Indigenous youth conference (2016 and 2017)
- Indigenous peoples' human rights defenders' conference (2017)
- Organize Human Rights Fair (2016)
- Indigenous youth peace camp (2016 and 2017).

10. Maya K'iche' Association for Integral Development, Guatemala

45. There are 200 different associations that belong to the organization, the aim of which is:

(a) To achieve the active participation of women to improve their quality of life;

(b) To implement programmes for the integral development of families and to preserve their moral, ethical and spiritual values.

46. The members of the organization have not attended the Permanent Forum, but believe that it could support their work by including the work of indigenous entrepreneurs. They are not aware of the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. They are implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by strengthening the participation of indigenous peoples on different platforms. The organization carries out capacity-building programmes by providing special programmes to its personnel on indigenous peoples' rights.

47. The organization has attended meetings of United Nations entities, but does not receive support from the United Nations. Members of the organization are planning to participate in the fifteenth session of the Permanent Forum, as well as

other meetings and activities at the local, national and international levels on the Global Network of Indigenous Entrepreneurs.

11. Mi'kmaq Rights Initiative/Kwilmu'kw Maw-klusuaqn Negotiation Office, Canada

48. The mission of the organization is to address the historical and current imbalances in the relationship between Mi'kmaq and non-Mi'kmaq people in Nova Scotia and to secure the basis for an improved quality of life of Mi'kmaq people. The organization undertakes the necessary research, develops consensus positions on identified issues and creates public and community awareness in a manner that supports the ability of the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs to fully guide negotiations on and the implementation and exercise of constitutionally protected Mi'kmaq rights. Its objectives are:

(a) To achieve the recognition, acceptance, implementation and protection of treaties, titles and other rights of the Mi'kmaq in Nova Scotia;

(b) To develop systems of Mi'kmaq governance and resource management;

(c) To revive, promote and protect a healthy Mi'kmaq identity;

(d) To obtain the basis for a shared economy and social development;

(e) To negotiate towards these goals with community involvement and support.

49. The organization works on behalf of the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs, which is the highest level of decision-making in the negotiation process. The Assembly comprises 13 Mi'kmaq Chiefs and 2 ex officio members. The ex officio members include the Grand Chief and the Grand Captain of the Mi'kmaq Grand Council, who represents the entire Mi'kmaq territory, called Mi'kma'ki, which includes Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Prince Edward Island and Maine. There are approximately 15,000 Mi'kmaw in Nova Scotia.

50. The organization participated in the thirteenth session of the Permanent Forum, in 2014. The Native Women's Association of Canada and the National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations participate in the Permanent Forum, and the Mi'kmaq of Nova Scotia have elected representation on these bodies; however, there has not been any direct interaction with the Permanent Forum to date.

51. The organization works on the implementation of Mi'kmaq treaty rights and aboriginal rights and titles in the Peace and Friendship Treaties. The negotiation process started after the Marshall decision of 1999. The office of the organization works on a daily basis to address issues relating to the duty to consult, and comprises a negotiation team that represents the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Chiefs and technical staff to conduct research. The "Made in Nova Scotia" process is about the implementation of self-determination and self-governance. As part of the process, the self-determination of identity (citizenship), the negotiation of Mi'kmaq treaty rights and aboriginal rights and titles are the main issues and include access and control of lands and cultural protections. Furthermore, the consultation process in Nova Scotia is working to achieve free, prior and informed consent.

52. The organization conducts community engagement sessions and provides newsletters and social media updates. Its other work includes focus groups,

meetings and workshops. It will be holding a conference on nationhood in 2016 or 2017. All the elected band councillors and chiefs participate. Other meeting events and their dates have yet to be decided.

12. New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council, Australia

53. The New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council is committed to ensuring a better future for aboriginal people by working for the return of culturally significant and economically viable land, pursuing cultural, social and economic independence for its people and being politically proactive and voicing the position of aboriginal people on issues that affect them. As a community body, the governance structures within the land rights system in the State of New South Wales are designed to achieve the highest degree of representation and participation for aboriginal peoples.

54. The New South Wales Aboriginal Land Rights Act of 1983 was enacted in recognition of, and in an attempt to remedy, the ongoing effects of the dispossession of aboriginal people in New South Wales. In the Act, the prior ownership of aboriginal peoples is significantly acknowledged and recognized and the principles of self-determination and compensation are embodied. The objects and purposes of the Act and the claim process are also significant in the light of Australia's obligations under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. New South Wales has the highest aboriginal population of any State or Territory of Australia. In the most recent census, in 2011, it was recorded as 202,674, representing just over 32 per cent of the total aboriginal population of Australia.

55. The New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council participated in the ninth, tenth, eleventh, twelfth, thirteenth and fourteenth sessions of the Permanent Forum. As a statutory body with an objective to foster and promote the best interests of the aboriginal people of New South Wales, human rights advocacy is a core priority for the organization and its operations. Engagement with the Permanent Forum has enhanced the organization's capacity to contribute to the promotion and development of a human rights framework in Australia as it applies to aboriginal peoples and, in dealing with the Government and the wider community, to improve outcomes for aboriginal peoples.

56. The organization has sent submissions to the Government of Australia and the New South Wales government in relation to constitutional recognition, culture and heritage reform and the review on Crown lands; however, it has not been included in State-led measures to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. It participated in the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and its preparatory meetings. While the Government of Australia has announced its support for the Declaration, it has not embedded the principles of the Declaration in national legislation. Its position on indigenous rights and the Declaration is reflected in the implementation of discriminatory laws and policies, such as income management and paperless arrests, which continue to disproportionately affect indigenous peoples in Australia.

57. The Australian Bureau of Statistics Census of Population and Housing is conducted every five years; it is the largest collection of statistical information on a wide range of social and economic matters and key characteristics of the population of Australia. Following the most recent collection of national data, in 2011, the New

South Wales Aboriginal Land Council further analysed the data to inform policy. Its analysis of the 2011 census is available online and in hard copy. It describes the New South Wales aboriginal population, education, employment, distribution of income and housing, and is further broken down across the regions covered by the organization.

58. Capacity-building of staff and members includes the Diplomacy Training Programme, an independent non-governmental organization affiliated with the University of New South Wales that seeks to advance human rights and empower civil society in the Asia-Pacific region. Across the organization's networks of local aboriginal land councils, ongoing governance training is provided to all elected board members, which supports communities in developing the skills, knowledge and resources that enable them to better manage their own affairs.

13. Sociedad Maya el Adelanto, Guatemala

59. Sociedad Maya el Adelanto represents the Maya K'iche' and Maya Mam from the Indigenous Municipality of Quetzaltenango. The organization's objectives include combating ethnic and cultural discrimination, preservation of the Mayan K'iche' heritage, respect for the Mayan worldview, commitment to community service, protection of indigenous peoples' rights and encouraging formal and informal education. The organization also intends to promote new multi-ethnic relationships at the local, national and international levels.

60. The organization has not participated in sessions of the Permanent Forum, but is aware of the Forum and its work. The Permanent Forum is seen as an international political forum at which recommendations are adopted to guide the work of the United Nations system through projects, programmes and funds, as well as through governments, indigenous organizations and civil society. These recommendations have helped indigenous peoples to implement their programmes to protect and promote their human rights and to improve their living conditions.

61. The organization has not participated in any activity promoted by the Government of Guatemala. However, it has participated in seminars at which the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was discussed. Most non-governmental organizations know about the Declaration and how it helps to promote the rights of indigenous peoples. The Government does not want to implement internationally agreed instruments, and therefore national laws are not harmonized.

62. The organization uses the Declaration in capacity-building training activities to promote the participation of indigenous youth and women. Other training includes capacity-building sessions for the representatives of the Maya K'iche' in the National Urban and Rural Development Council.

14. The Sámi Parliament of Finland

63. The main objective of the Sámi Parliament is to plan and implement the cultural self-government guaranteed to the Sámi as an indigenous people. It is the supreme political body of the Sámi in Finland. The members of the Sámi Parliament are elected from among the Sámis every four years. Owing to its representative nature, the Sámi Parliament provides an official view of the Sámi in Finland on the issues concerning them. There are around 10,000 Sámis living in Finland.

64. The Sámi Parliament has attended sessions of the Permanent Forum many times to raise awareness on issues concerning the Sámi people and their situation in Finland. Furthermore, it is an important forum for networking with other indigenous peoples and for sharing and exchanging ideas. It is also a good forum for discussing issues concerning Sámi people between the Government of Finland and the Sámi Parliament.

65. There is an ongoing conflict over the definition of Sámi self-determination and the elections of the Sámi Parliament in Finland. The elections of the Sámi Parliament are held every four years, and, to be able to vote, a person must be registered as a Sámi in the Sámi Parliament's list of voters. Recently, a large group of applicants have been trying to enrol, but the election committee, chosen by the Sámi Parliament plenum among the Sámis themselves, has rejected the applications. According to the Sámi Parliament's election committee and the executive board, the applicants did not meet the requirements. There is a view that a large number of the applicants are trying to enrol for the perceived benefits of being recognized as indigenous and Sámi if Finland were to ratify ILO Convention No. 169.

66. In 2011, the Supreme Administrative Court decided to accept four applicants who are not seen as Sámi according to the Sámi Parliament's election committee. The State of Finland therefore violates and continues to violate the Sámi people's right to determine their identity or membership. The heated debate has escalated and could be seen as a conflict between two opposing groups.

67. Although Finland has not developed a national implementation plan for the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, some initiatives have been made to implement the Declaration. For instance, the Sámi Parliament has been involved in the drafting of legislation, in accordance with article 19 of the Declaration.

68. During the elections of the Sámi Parliament, certain data of the Sámi people is collected, including on languages spoken. In 2015, the Sámi Parliament received funding from the development fund for agriculture and forestry to collect, analyse and publish information in North Sámi, Inari Sámi, Skolt Sámi and Finnish on the status of and trends in Sámi languages and traditional Sámi livelihoods. The election committee of the Sámi Parliament sent a survey form to all Sámi people entitled to vote, together with the notice of the vote. The first part of the survey focused on defining the number of Sámi language speakers (linguistic indicator) and the other part dealt with the state of traditional Sámi livelihoods by requesting information on the livelihoods of the respondent's family and the livelihood structure of the Sámi people. The results of the survey will be available in 2016.

15. The regional public organization of Tuba-kalyk, Altai Republic, Russian Federation

69. Tuba-kalyk (Tubalars) is a member of the association of the small-numbered peoples of Altai Republic, which brings together 3,000 small-numbered indigenous peoples, such as the Kumandins, Telengits, Tubalars and Chelkans. The main focus of the organization is to preserve the language, culture and traditions of the Tubalars peoples. The organization has not attended sessions of the Permanent Forum, although it hopes to do so in the future.

70. In 2015, the organization received a grant from the Trust Fund on Indigenous Issues relating to the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples, to preserve the endangered Tubalar language. The Tubalars are a forest people who live off the natural resources, or "gifts", of the taiga. During the time of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Tubalars used to cut down the forest, but the taiga was leased for 49 years to private firms in the Altai Republic. Currently, there is no work for the community or opportunities to educate children, and the language is not taught. There are many social problems in the community, including alcoholism, and women have limited rights.

71. The organization uses various platforms to stop the cedar trees from being cut, as they are sacred to the Tubalars. Meetings are planned to discuss ways to ban deforestation, protect the cedar trees and find ways to guarantee the rights of the small-numbered peoples of Altai Republic.

16. Traditional Authorities of Indigenous Peoples — Principal Government, Colombia

72. The organization has been in existence for more than 40 years and supports the ancestral movement of indigenous peoples. Its main purpose is to defend indigenous territories and to strengthen indigenous peoples' identity. It represents 10 groups of indigenous peoples: the Nasa, Misak, Pijao, Yanakona, Embera, Dovida, Wounaan, Kamentsa, Inga and Kubeo peoples.

73. There is a perception that the Permanent Forum works only with the National Indigenous Organization of Colombia, while there are actually five national indigenous organizations in the country (the National Indigenous Organization of Colombia, the Organization of Indigenous Peoples of the Colombian Amazon Region, the Tairona Indigenous Confederation, Traditional Authorities of Indigenous Peoples — Principal Government and the Movement of Indigenous Authorities of Colombia for Pachamama (Mother Earth)). The organization works on issues relating to conflict, peace and resolution.

74. The implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples takes place at the national level, and five national indigenous organizations have requested the Government of Colombia to adopt national legislation recognizing the Declaration. The main obstacle to implementing the Declaration is the lack of will by the Government. The organization promotes and advocates for the implementation of the Declaration. However, it lacks the financial resources to develop programmes to promote the rights of indigenous peoples.

75. In 2016, the members of the organization will develop a project related to the national development plan called "Process of revitalization of the indigenous worldview", aimed at strengthening their distinct identity. There is a call for United Nations efforts, including: the realization of a national congress of traditional authorities in Colombia, economic support for its activities, the consolidation of indigenous peoples' territories, capacity-building and technical support on free, prior and informed consultation and economic support for the traditional authorities of the indigenous peoples of Colombia.

17. West Papua Interest Association, Indonesia

76. The West Papua Interest Association is an indigenous peoples' organization that represents the people of West Papua. There are many different tribes in West Papua from the middle highlands, lowlands, valleys, lakes, rivers, coasts and small islands, that have gathered together to form the West Papua Interest Association. The main objectives and goals of the organization are to advocate for the protection of human rights of West Papua indigenous peoples. The total number of members is around 40,000.

77. The organization has actively participated in the sessions of the Permanent Forum and made interventions on the human rights situation in West Papua from 2008 to 2015. The organization needs the Permanent Forum to take forward the aspiration of self-determination of the indigenous peoples of West Papua. The New York Agreement of 15 August 1962 between the Netherlands and Indonesia did not involve or respect the rights of West Papua indigenous peoples, and this is where the initial conflicts began.

78. The organization disseminates information regarding the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples among indigenous peoples. However, the obstacle is that indigenous peoples continue to face discrimination by the local government and the police, which have labelled indigenous peoples' organizations as illegal and separatist organizations. The organization provides human rights training to indigenous representatives.

18. West Papua National Authority, based in West Papua, with its international offices in Melbourne, Australia, and Washington, D.C.

79. The main objective of the organization is to preserve and promote the unique culture of West Papuan people and to promote peace and stability.

80. Representatives of the organization have attended the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples and sessions of the Permanent Forum. The Permanent Forum provides an avenue for the organization to regularly participate in discussions on issues pertaining to the rights of indigenous peoples. It also gives the organization an opportunity to raise issues.

81. Peace remains the founding principle for the organization to promote security and diplomatic dialogue and to seek the peaceful resolution of the issues facing West Papuans. It has as a basis the principle of peace that the West Papuan Melanesian Women Solidarity was founded to promote gender equality and Melanesian women's culture and to ensure the security of the indigenous women of West Papua.

82. There are many obstacles to implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including the lack of will by the Government. The organization has translated the Declaration into the local language of Papua Malay so that indigenous peoples can have a better understanding of their rights.

83. The organization and the West Papuan communities hold regular training activities with local people on the rule of law in relation to their cultural rights. The community is also encouraged to hold dialogue among themselves, especially in places where the organization is not able to go. To achieve this goal, leaders

throughout West Papua come together once a month to discuss their progress and any concerns.

84. The United Nations has given the organization a voice in participating in indigenous peoples' forums. However, the United Nations could do more to honour and protect indigenous peoples' dignity. In 2016 and 2017, the affiliates of the organization will participate in various meetings in the Pacific region, such as the Melanesian Spearhead Group and the Pacific Islands Forum. In the United States of America, the organization will continue to inform and educate people, including in colleges, about their issues. It will also participate in United Nations meetings for indigenous peoples, as well as in meetings relating to human rights.

19. Working Group of Indigenous Peoples in the Barents Euro-Arctic region, based in Finland, Norway, the Russian Federation and Sweden

85. The organization was appointed by the Barents Regional Council and was established on a permanent basis in 1995. It has an advisory status in the Barents Regional Council and the Barents Euro-Arctic Council, and therefore has a particular political dimension within the formal structure of the Barents cooperation. It consists of six members, with three members appointed by the Sámi Parliamentary Council and one member each from the Sámi congress of Murmansk Oblast, the regional public movement "Association of the Nenets People" and the Veps Culture Society.

86. The organization has staff at the Norwegian Barents secretariat in Kirkenes, Norway, and the Barents Indigenous Peoples' Office in Murmansk, Russian Federation. The purpose of the organization is to serve as a forum for indigenous peoples' cooperation in the Barents Euro-Arctic region, comprising parts of Finland, Norway, the Russian Federation and Sweden, and to ensure the involvement of the indigenous peoples of the region in decision-making processes and their participation in the cooperation.

87. The overall goal for the indigenous peoples' cooperation in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region is to secure indigenous peoples' rights and a foundation for trade, society, culture and language through the implementation of the Action Plan for Indigenous Peoples in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region.

88. The organization participated in the tenth session of the Permanent Forum. On 19 May 2011, it arranged a side event with the Russian Association of Indigenous People of the North on the democratization processes among indigenous peoples in the Russian Federation. The previous Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, James Anaya, was the keynote speaker at a seminar held the day before the second Barents Indigenous Peoples' Congress, in 2012, on the topic of indigenous peoples' rights and corporations.

89. It is obvious that indigenous women play a significant part in the political sphere in the region, as the majority of the current representatives of the organization are women. Indigenous women have high political positions, as the Sámi Parliaments in Finland and Norway are chaired by women (as at December 2015), and the Veps Culture Society is chaired by a woman, whereas the remaining participating organizations are led by men. The Sámi Women's Forum is an observer to the organization and is invited to take part in all meetings and in the preparation of documents, such as the resolutions of the Barents Indigenous Peoples' Congress.

90. The organization participated in the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples preparatory conference, in Alta, Norway, in June 2013. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples serves as an important document for the organization's activities and is certainly an important reference in its documents. All four nation States have challenges regarding the implementation of the Declaration. In Finland, there have been serious tensions between the State and the Sámi Parliament over the past year. Early in 2015, Finland refused to revise the Sámi Act and ignored the treaty agreed with the Sámi Parliament. Just before the election of the Sámi Parliament, the Supreme Administrative Court of Finland overruled the Sámi Parliament decisions regarding the inclusion of individuals to the electoral roll. Norway is the only Barents State that has ratified ILO Convention No. 169, and the agreement on procedures for consultation between the Government of Norway and the Sámi Parliament in Norway has existed for 10 years. The Government has broken this agreement too often with regard to education and fisheries management. The organization is worried about the situation for indigenous peoples' non-governmental organizations in the Russian Federation, and in particular the effect that the Federal Law on Non-commercial Organizations may have on the development and continuation of the Barents cooperation.

91. The organization bases its work on the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which is a crucial background document for the resolutions of and the discussions in the Barents Indigenous Peoples' Congress. The organization provides and participates in capacity-building through cooperation with other indigenous peoples' organizations in projects and through the implementation of the Action Plan for Indigenous Peoples (the latest was adopted by the third Barents Indigenous Peoples' Congress. held in Tromsø, Norway, on 4 February 2015). Currently, there is no formal contact between the organization and the United Nations, and the support has not extended beyond what has been mentioned above.

92. In 2016 and 2017, the organization will hold its regular meetings and participate in all meetings of the Committee of Senior Officials of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council, chaired by the Russian Federation, as well as all other relevant meetings. According to the priorities of the Chair of the Council (2015-2017), the Russian Federation is to host an indigenous peoples' meeting during the chairmanship, and the organization will be the dialogue partner for the shaping and planning of the event, which might take place in 2017. In the light of these priorities, the organization has launched the idea of cooperating with the Chair on a side event at the fifteenth session of the Permanent Forum.

20. Yapti Tasba Masraka Nanih Aslatakanka, Nicaragua

93. The organization promotes the identity and the collective rights of Moskitia indigenous peoples in Nicaragua. It also promotes the historical rights of indigenous peoples to their lands and territories, to self-government, to their identity and to visions of development. The organization represents a pluriethnic movement comprising the Miskitu people (180,000 persons), the Sumu-Mayangna nation (30,000), the Rama people (2,000), the Garífuna community (2,500) and the Creole community (40,000).

94. The organization has participated in the sessions of the Permanent Forum from 2013 to 2015. Through participation at the Permanent Forum, indigenous peoples

can highlight their struggle, cultures and identities at the international level. The Permanent Forum also provides opportunities for networking and communication with other indigenous peoples around the world and to engage with international organizations and representatives of national governments.

95. The organization supports community organizations to protect their territorial rights from outside settlers. The Government does not take any position to solve the conflicts between indigenous peoples and settlers who take over their traditional lands. The conflicts have caused deaths, kidnappings and internal and external displacement. The displaced persons mostly comprise children, older people and women from the communities affected by the conflict. The organization promotes self-protection mechanisms as well as the dialogue for peaceful solutions to conflicts.

96. The Government does not take any action to promote or implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The organization does not participate in any activity related to the implementation of the Declaration. The only initiative was in 2007, when the national Parliament of Nicaragua acknowledged the Declaration by a resolution and expressed its willingness to harmonize national legislation in line with the Declaration. National institutions do not fully understand the meaning of the Declaration and therefore policies and programmes do not consider the rights of indigenous peoples. In addition, there is a lack of knowledge about the Declaration by indigenous peoples owing to limited access to information and capacity-building.

97. The organization states that there is no interest on the part of the Government to collect data. It is therefore difficult to identify the situation of indigenous peoples. In Nicaragua, there is a tendency to homogenize data. The organization does not receive support from the United Nations. Recently, all the United Nations country team programmes relating to indigenous peoples in Nicaragua have had to be channelled through the relevant government institutions.

98. Depending on its financial situation, the organization supports some capacity-building sessions for chiefs and communal leaders. These capacity-building programmes include raising awareness and understanding the Declaration and ILO Convention No. 169. The organization will attend meetings of the general assembly of Moskitia and Afro-descendant groups in February 2016; training sessions on indigenous territories from March to June 2016; seminars on the Inter-American Court of Human Rights decision of 2005 on *Nicaragua vs. Yapti Tasba Masraka Nanih Aslatakanka* from July to November 2016; a regional seminar on the right to self-determination in the first half of 2017; and workshops on indigenous territorial governments in the second half of 2017.